



STATE OF WASHINGTON
FIRST STEPS
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January 16, 2009

TO: First Steps Providers
Interested Parties

FROM: Todd Slettvet
Section Manager, Family Healthcare
Office of Community Services
Division of Healthcare Services
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Department of Health

SUBJECT: First Steps Child Care (FSCC) Program Update

As previously announced by HRSA, it is necessary to discontinue the First Steps Child Care (FSCC) program as a result of the forecasted budget shortfalls and Governor Gregoire's mandated budget reductions.

However, the termination date for the FSCC program has not yet been determined. We will notify everyone as soon as we have this information. Until more is known regarding the termination date, we ask that all requests for child care, regardless of the reason, be faxed to First Steps Child Care staff for approval. Child care payments will only be approved by HRSA for a total of two weeks at a time. Please continue to fax requests for services to (360) 725-2115. At the end of two weeks, if your client is in need of additional child care services you will not need to fax in another request. Instead, please notify the payment coordinator, Sara Hensley, by e-mail at henslm@dshs.wa.gov and we will notify you of approval via fax. For any other questions or concerns please contact Cathy Hewins, FSCC program manager at 360-725-1654 or via e-mail at hewincj@dshs.wa.gov.

We will continue to post updated information as it is available to us. Thank you for your patience during these difficult and challenging times. We want to thank you for your contribution to this program and your commitment to serving the women of Washington State.

cc: Sara Hensley
Cathy Hewins